

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed August 6, 2008, prior to preparing this response. Claims 3-11, 13-19 and 21 are pending in the application, wherein claims 3-9, 15, 17 and 19 have been allowed and claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 18 have been rejected. Claim 21 has been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18 and 21 have been cancelled with this paper. Favorable consideration and allowance of the allowed pending claims is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for the favorable consideration of claims 3-9, 15, 17 and 19. In view of the indicated allowability of these claims, a Notice of Allowance in due course is respectfully anticipated.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C §103

Claims 10, 11, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,071,030) in view of Truc et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,911,777) and Emmel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,683,194).

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,071,030) in view of Truc et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,911,777) and Emmel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,683,194), and further in view of Tyler (U.S. Patent No. 4,207,366).

Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 18 have been cancelled in the application, without reaching the merits of the rejection, in an attempt to expedite prosecution of the allowed claims. In cancelling these claims, Applicants do not concede the appropriateness of the rejection and reserve the right to pursue these claims, or claims of a similar scope, in a divisional application.

Conclusion

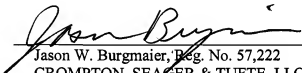
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his attorney,

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